

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

(ESTABLISHED 1877.)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.
INvariably in Advance.

ADVERTISING RATES—Flat.
Guaranteed Weekly Circulation 100,000.

30c. per line for display.
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Sample copies mailed free on request.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE CO., Incorporated, Proprietors.
ENTERED AT WASHINGTON POST OFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 14, 1904.

Office: 320 Pennsylvania Avenue N. W.

JUDGE PARKER is maintaining a silence that is luminous as to his candidatorial fitness.

IF THE Democrats want to interest the veterans in their ticket let them put on Judge Miers, of Indiana, for Vice-President.

IF SENATOR BURTON'S ignominious fate will be a real warning to others, it will diminish our regrets for a brilliant young man having gone very wrong.

IT HAS NOT been a great while ago since D. B. Hill's party colleagues pronounced him politically very, very dead. Just now he seems to be calling the turn with shining success.

RUSSIA predicts that the war with Japan will last 25 years. She must be going to send her battleships to the East in very small annual instalments to make them hold out that long.

KANSAS is laudably eager to be the first in everything, though her pride does not seem to go out very much toward the fact that she is the first State to have a Senator actually sent to jail.

THAT THE Japanese have plenty of initiative and dash is everywhere conceded. The question has been as to their staying qualities. These are now to be tested. The Russians have the reputation of being the most stolid and immovable of European troops.

MR. CLEVELAND is having a great deal of trouble proving that he never had a negro to lunch with him at the White House. In addition to Taylor, of Kansas, Fred Douglass was there often at lunch time, and stayed for hours. Was Mr. Cleveland so inhospitable as to send either away hungry?

IT appears quite certain that the Japanese have effectively cleared out all the Russians south of the Yalu River, and this with comparative ease. The only advantages have been some insignificant skirmishes with trifling losses—probably 20 killed on both sides would cover the entire loss. The Russians stripped the country of all its supplies as they retired, but this will not embarrass the Japanese much, since the positions they want to hold can be readily supplied from the seacoast.

NICHOLAS I. gave up the struggle for Sebastopol against the relatively small armies which England and France sent thither in the Crimean War, declaring himself hopeless of victory since the "lack of morale in his officers tripped him up at every step." The intense interest now is whether the Russian officers have improved in morale since the Crimean War 60 years ago. So far Admiral Makaroff and some others have shown a great deal of dash and competence, while others have shown sadly the reverse.

RUSSIA must not only get hundreds of thousands of men into Manchuria, but she must carry food thousands of miles to them over a single-track railroad. The Japanese can certainly overpower her when near the seacoast, but when they attempt to advance in the country, their real difficulties will begin, and it is only a question of the length of the advance when their troubles will be proportionately as great as Russia's. This seems to point to the debatable ground being established somewhere south of Harbin. It will be remembered that Harbin is about 450 miles from Newchwang, which the Japanese will in all probability make their base, and these 450 miles of rough, mountainous country affording no supplies, will test the strength of the two combatants.

THE death of Isabella II., ex-Queen of Spain, revives the memory of more than half a century of very interesting history now more or less forgotten. A conspicuous part of this was the attempt of the wily old Louis Philippe of France to permanently annex Spain, and put his dynasty on a rock foundation, by marrying his two sons to the two daughters of Ferdinand, the elder of whom was to inherit the throne of Spain. Louis Philippe was only prevented from accomplishing this by threats of war from England and Austria, and then he did the next best thing in marrying Isabella, the heiress, to a hopeless incompetent, and her sister to Louis Philippe's eldest son. This provided that the Queen, dying without issue, her sister's children—that is, the grandchildren of Louis Philippe—would inherit the throne of Spain. This arrangement was carried out, and would have been a very successful one if Queen Isabella had only been satisfied with it. She was not, however, and quite a number of children, the only certainty about their paternity being that they were not her husband's. Altogether Queen Isabella was superior to the usual run of Spanish monarchs. These Kings and Queens are mere figureheads, and the question is as to the ring which is behind them. With all its capacity and provisions, the ring which put Isabella on the throne and held her there for many years, was superior in essential particulars to the ring which had tried to put Don Carlos on the throne. When the opposition got too strong, as must come sooner or later, there never being plums enough to go around, Isabella was forced to abdicate and retired to the very comfortable provisions which she had laid up for a rainy day in Paris. She had foresight enough to compel the ring of which she was the head to carry its plunder squarely in her favor, and for 20 years or so she has been one of the figures in the little coteries of banished rulers, who, like herself, had laid away in Paris all the comfort and provision for the time when their exactions would lead to a violent change in the administration of their countries.

GIVE IT THE FORCE OF LAW.

Instead of wasting valuable time in discussing the abstract question of the President's course in regard to pensions, Congress should, if it really wants to help the veterans and earn their gratitude, take the decided forward step of embodying the principle of the new order into a law.

If the President has anticipated Congress, and done by order what that body intended to do by legislation, why should not Congress go on and carry out its original plan?

There is no doubt that the new order will be of immense benefit to the veterans. Why should Congress permit the President to have all the credit for that benefit? Why not secure that which is legitimately due Congress by enacting into law all that the order has granted, and also whatever more that Congress may feel inclined to give?

If the new order gave all that Congress thinks the veterans should have, then let Congress confirm that much, and put it beyond the power of any future President or Commissioner to revoke the order, or narrow down its scope.

This course would seem not only in accordance with the protestations of devotion for the veterans which Congress has always made, but it would show the sincerity of those protestations, and would at the same time be expedient in evidencing to the veterans that their Representatives really intended to carry out in Congress what they had promised on the stump. We know that the disposition of a great majority of the members of the House of Representatives, possibly also a majority of the Senate, is strongly in favor of giving the veterans much more than was granted in the new order. If this be so, there should be no difficulty in passing through both Houses a bill which would at least permanently fix upon the statute books the advance made by that order, and therefore change the status from being a mere Executive order, revocable at pleasure, to a vested right having all the force and solemnity of law. The advantage of this would be so apparent to the veterans as to bring out their strong gratitude toward Congress.

An act of this kind would be worth more than all the eloquent ringing speeches that can fill the Congressional Record from now until adjournment.

The veterans are now so old that they want something more effective than silver-tongued oratory. They have had an abundance of that.

This act would be something tangible which every Representative and Senator could take back to his veteran constituents as indisputable evidence that he has been alive to their interests, and not allowed the session to pass without some practical help.

The veterans care little about abstractions as to the President's powers. They want realities. The order is a reality as far as President Roosevelt and this Administration are concerned. Now let Congress make it a reality for all time, independent of the vicissitudes of politics and changes of Administration.

If Congressmen are sincere they can not refuse to do this. It is the least they can do to give an appearance of truthfulness to their declarations.

There is plenty of time to do this before Congress adjourns.

It can be done in less time than is taken up by the shortest speech glorifying the deeds of the veterans, and promising them the undying gratitude of the country.

Let us have it done at once.

Then we can read the speeches more patiently.

THE NEW ORDER.

The Pension Bureau is now sending out the following letter, explanatory of its interpretation of the New Order:

"In response to your attached communication, you are advised that under the provisions of section 2 of the act of June 27, 1890, as amended by the act of May 9, 1890, any officer or enlisted man who served 90 days or more in the army or navy of the United States during the late war of the rebellion and received an honorable discharge therefrom may be entitled to a pension as such provided he is now or may hereafter be suffering from any mental or physical disability or disabilities of a permanent character, not the result of his own vicious habits, which so incapacitate him from the performance of manual labor as to render him unable to earn a support.

"In the adjudication of invalid claims under said act, it is taken and considered as an evidential fact, if the contrary does not appear and if all other legal requirements are properly met, that when a claimant has passed the age of 62 years, he shall be regarded as disabled one-half in ability to perform manual labor and may be entitled to the minimum rating of \$9 per month; after 65 years of age, to \$8 per month; after 68 years of age, to \$10 per month; and after 70 years of age, to the maximum rating of \$12 per month. A declaration stating that the claimant is 62 years of age; 65 years; 68 years; or 70 years, as the case may be, is a sufficient allegation in cases of this kind, even if no other disabling cause is set forth, but in all cases the exact date of birth should be stated.

"Allowances under said acts at a higher rate, not exceeding \$12 per month, will continue to be made as heretofore, where disabilities other than age show a condition of inability to perform manual labor, but in no case can pension exceed \$12 per month, which is the maximum rate of invalid pension provided for in said acts and is not subject to increase for age. This rule in this Bureau prior to April 13, 1904. The former rules of the Bureau fixing the minimum and maximum at 65 years and 75 years, respectively, are accordingly modified as above.

"Pensions granted under the provisions of section 2 of the act of June 27, 1890, of amended by the act of May 9, 1890, are subject to termination by the law ruling or not, and are in addition to pension allowed under any other law, as the law prohibits the payment of more than one pension to a person for the same period.

This settles one point, about which there has been some anxious questioning: the amount of proof that would be required for age. This says that a mere statement as to age, accompanied by exact date of all that will be required.

THE PARKER ROOM.

The arrangement which was foreshadowed in The National Tribune some weeks ago as to the alliance of New York with the South, seems to be carrying out very effectively. The result of the primaries in New York State has given Judge Parker 300 out of the 450 delegates, or enough at this moment for a two-thirds control of the Convention. The inevitable rush to get on the bandwagon will of course greatly increase this preponderance and make Tammany's resistance unavailing. They are even now talking confidently of the unit rule, which will make the New York delegation solid in the Convention. The unit rule will probably be the tactics everywhere. The Hearst men see the danger from it, and are making a violent resistance wherever it is proposed. All the same it will undoubtedly obtain in the delegations from New York, Pennsylvania, New England, New Jersey and the South, so that at this writing, it looks very much as if Parker would enter the Democratic Convention with enough solid, well-disciplined votes behind him to force his nomination without any thing more than factious opposition developing anywhere. The momentum this boom has already acquired puts it in the position of rapid growth from all those whose necks are craned to catch the first sight of the winner and to hurry into his line. Of course, quite as prominent booms as this have been blighted by an untimely frost, but it surely looks today as if the nomination of Judge Parker was quite as certain as any uncertain thing can be.

The late Queen Isabella II. was the worst talked-about woman in history. While she was probably no more immoral than many of her predecessors, the most was made of her delinquencies by the Carlist party, which was waging a civil war to place a degenerate scion of the Bourbons on the throne, and enable his particular gang to plunder the poor old country. Bad as Isabella II. may have been, she was an angel compared to Don Carlos.

SECRETARY HITCHCOCK ON THE NEW ORDER.

In response to a resolution from the Senate requesting information for that body as to the recent order of the Commissioner of Pensions, Mr. Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior, sent a letter, in the course of which he said:

"As some misunderstanding with reference to the interpretation and purpose of this order has existed, a brief review of pension legislation and the administration thereof in this Department is submitted for the purpose of showing that the order leaves no room for misunderstanding, and that the order is in conformity with existing law and methods which have heretofore prevailed in its administration.

"Manual labor is the sole measure of the right to a pension under this act of June 27, 1890. The element of manual labor is fundamental. If, in the adjudication of a pension claim, it shall be determined that the applicant is incapable of manual labor, his pension rating will be accordingly even though the applicant may be disabled by some other cause, such as loss of limb, or some other physical disability, which renders him unable to perform manual labor.

"It is well understood that there is a natural decay of the physical powers, due to age, which renders a man incapable of manual labor, and he is entitled to a pension to 'earn a support' by his own manual labor.

"Not only does the act itself provide that 'each and every claimant shall be duly considered,' but the decisions under it uniformly recognize the principle that disabilities due to senility alone are pensionable.

"The Secretary refers to an order of September, 1893, when the age of 75 years was established as the maximum age for pension. He cites three cases of this kind, and continues:

"Although age, in connection with other disabilities, has always been considered in determining pension ratings under the act, there has never been any uniform rule for rating the infirmities due to the element of age, which is the subject of the two classes named. Such ratings, therefore, seem to have been governed by the varying opinions of the many who have been occupied with the question, and have been, in many cases, the result of an arbitrary and uncertain something of uncertainty and inequality.

"To this fact, together with the growing importance of age conditions, and in considerable measure the necessity for action on the line of this order, specifically defining, as far as practicable, ratings from the ascertainable data for infirmities due to senility.

"In the administration of pension laws and the consideration of the immense number of cases that are pending under every act, it is impossible to secure uniformity and expedition in decisions without laying down convenient rules for the weighing of evidence and prima facie presumption which long experience justifies. This has been the uniform course of the Pension Bureau since its establishment.

"The order in question merely lays down, as a convenient rule of decision, and as a result of long experience, that one who is otherwise entitled and is 62 years of age, is partially disabled for earning a livelihood by his hands; that one who is 65 is more disabled for manual work; that one who is 68 is even more disabled; and that one of 70 is completely disabled in this regard. Certain ratings are justified by general experience in actual life.

"When it is understood that, in the adjudications under this act, age has always been a factor with other disabilities; and when it is further understood that for more than 10 years there has been an established rating (the maximum allowance by law), based solely on the age of the claimant, and that for more than 15 years there has been an established rating (the minimum provided by law) based solely on the age of 65 years, it will be apparent how largely problematical must be any estimate of increase of expenditures under the order of March 15, 1904."

CLAIMANTS SHOULD GIVE COMPANY AND RESIDENT.

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, April 7, 1904.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:—It does not seem to be well understood among veterans that in calling up claims for pension it is necessary that the number of the claim and the company and regiment in which the soldier served be given in each instance. Hundreds of letters reach the Bureau every day with only the name given. It is impossible for the Bureau to claim and make a claim alone. Claimants do not understand that they therefore complain that their letters are not answered.

Your valued paper has a wide circulation among veterans and their widows, and a statement from you of the above requirements in their correspondence would be for the mutual benefit of the Pension Bureau and those doing business with it.

Yours very truly,
E. F. WARE.

When Johnny Came Marching Home?

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An Improved Funeral—Ex-Johnny's Romance and Its Termination—Southern Girls Not So Obdurate to Yankees as Represented.

Neither Maria nor Annabel were used to luxury or a superabundance of the bright and pretty things of life, but neither was either of them acquainted with poverty, abject and revolting, such as was revealed to them when they stooped to enter the narrow doorway of the miserable shack which a woman and a child called by the sacred name "home."

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"THE GIRLS SOON SPREAD OUT THE REMAINS OF THE LUNCH."

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"We're now coming to Briscoe Station," said Ex-Johnny. "We once thought we'd cut out the Second Corps of your army there, and was going to capture it, but Gen. Warren outmaneuvered Hill and Ewell, and beat them off. We lost a whole lot of prisoners and a battery of artillery. We were terribly disappointed in not going into Washington and then in not capturing the Second Corps, and all the satisfaction we got was in tearing up the Orange & Alexandria Railroad again."

"Poor Orange & Alexandria Railroad," murmured the Adjutant. "But it must have got used to being torn up by that time. If I remember right, you didn't get off so easily after all. The Army of the Potomac warned you up mighty lively at Rappahannock Station. Where is Rappahannock Station?"

"Oh, if you would sing," began Mrs. Morgan.

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